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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5618**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL TO PROMOTE ENHANCED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a 10-member advisory committee within the Department of Public Health (DPH) to promote enhanced communication and collaboration among DPH, municipal health departments, and local health districts. Five members each are appointed by the DPH commissioner and the executive director of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health. The commissioner selects the chairperson from the committee membership.

The advisory committee has a number of duties including (1) evaluating the allocation of public health resources among DPH, municipal health departments and local health districts and (2) establishing criteria for reviewing DPH applications for federal funding. DPH must submit such applications to the committee for its review and approval.

By January 1, 2012 and annually afterwards, the advisory committee chairperson must report to the Public Health Committee on its activities.

DPH, within available appropriations, must provide administrative support to the advisory committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

##### ***Duties and Responsibilities***

The committee must meet as necessary and evaluate (1) health resources allocation among DPH, municipal health departments, and

local health districts; (2) implementation of state and federal policies affecting these entities; and (3) policy changes they propose.

The committee must establish criteria for (1) its prior review of any DPH application for federal funds or grants, (2) committee review of any DPH application for federal funding after its submission to federal authorities when prior review is impracticable because of time or other circumstances, and (3) exempting certain DPH federal funding applications from committee review.

***Committee Review of Federal Funding Applications***

Under the bill, DPH must submit any proposed federal funding application to the advisory committee for review. No federal funding DPH has applied for can be disbursed or used unless the committee has reviewed and approved the goals and proposed allocation by at least a two-thirds vote. If the committee cannot meet this standard, the committee chairperson can approve the application, after consulting with the committee, with modifications it determines.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    28    Nay    0    (03/28/2011)